

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2018-4672, by Representative Bergquist

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Gary Kohlwes was the superintendent for the Renton
2 School District from 1974 to 1997 where his steadfast leadership and
3 guidance was seen by many; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Kohlwes empowered and encouraged countless teachers,
5 students, and administrators that contributed to the strength and
6 success of the Renton School District; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Kohlwes attended Western Washington University for
8 his bachelor's and master's degrees and ultimately obtained his
9 doctorate in educational psychology from the University of
10 Washington; and

11 WHEREAS, Many of his academic colleagues describe him as a
12 supportive and honest person, who is tough-minded, multifaceted, and
13 hard-working; and

14 WHEREAS, In his community, Dr. Kohlwes served as Director of
15 First Financial Northwest Bank, a position he held for thirty-six
16 years and later served as Chairman of the Board for four years; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Kohlwes was able to give back to his community as
18 Executive Director and Trustee of the First Financial Northwest
19 Foundation through various charitable causes, including a recent
20 three million dollar donation to the Doug Baldwin Family First
21 Community Center in Renton's Benson Hill/Cascade neighborhood; and

1 WHEREAS, Various Renton civic organizations have benefitted from
2 the leadership of Dr. Kohlwes, including the Renton Rotary Club where
3 he served as a past president and is still active; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Kohlwes also took great pride as a college
5 basketball coach and trainer at Western Washington University; and

6 WHEREAS, He was a high school teacher and as coach, led the
7 Arlington High School football team through an undefeated season; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Kohlwes has dedicated an immeasurable amount of
9 personal time to his community and has shown his devotion through
10 acts of service and valuable contributions; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Kohlwes and his wife, Elizabeth, have raised two
12 boys and two girls, all graduates of Renton High School, during their
13 marriage of over sixty years;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House
15 of Representatives recognize Dr. Gary Kohlwes for his long dedication
16 as a teacher, superintendent, and director in Washington state, and,
17 above all, wish him the best health and happiness in his retirement;
18 and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
20 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of
21 Representatives to Dr. Gary Kohlwes.

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